

DISTRICT THREE

1999

ANNUAL PRO BONO REPORT

SUBMITTED NOVEMBER 1, 1999

This Annual Pro Bono Report is made pursuant to Rule 6.5 of the Indiana

Rules of Professional Conduct. The Report details the District Committee membership, the governance of the Committee, and the current resources available in District Three providing pro bono services. Consistent with the directive of the Honorable L. Mark Bailey, the 2000 Annual Report and Plan will be submitted on or before June 30, 2000.

The mission of District Three is as follows:

- (1) To enable Indiana attorneys to discharge their professional responsibilities to provide pro bono services;
- (2) To improve the overall delivery of civil legal services to persons of limited means by facilitating the integration and coordination of services provided by pro bono organizations and other legal assistance organizations throughout the State of Indiana, more particularly within District Three;
- (3) To ensure statewide and district access to high quality and timely pro bono civil legal services for persons of limited means by fostering the development of new pro bono programs where needed and supporting and improving the quality of existing pro bono programs;
- (4) To foster the growth of a public service culture within the Indiana Bar which values pro bono service;
- (5) To promote the ongoing development of financial and other resources

for pro bono organizations in Indiana and District Three.

Committee Membership - current membership is as follows. At our organizational

meeting in October, each member pledged to recruit one community leader from their respective areas to join the committee. In addition, the committee is actively recruiting current or former clients of pro bono services to be members.

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President, Allen County Bar

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Legal Services of Maumee Valley
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Ft. Wayne, IN 46802
(219) 422-8070 ext. 18
FAX (219) 422-7915
lsmv@fwi.com
Legal services provider

Governance of Committee

Judge Gull was elected by the other members of the Committee as Chair. Joe Shull is the Vice-Chair, and David Van Gilder is Secretary. The committee decided that each member will serve an initial two (2) year term. The committee will operate on an informal basis at their meetings. Pursuant to 6.5, Judge Gull will appoint additional members and fill vacancies created when members' terms expire.

History/Background - all counties, bar associations, currently funded provider organizations in the District, and any pro bono organizing activity or efforts at

coordination that existed prior to formation of the 6.5 Committee are as follows:

Legal Services of Maumee Valley

Allen County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Program

Allen County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Program

Allen County Bar Association Legal Line

Mental Health Association Public Guardianship Program

Domestic Violence Program

Pro Se Divorce Clinics

Family Centered Services (Wells County)

Legal Services Organization of Northern Indiana

1999 Annual Report: Existing Services, Programs and Funding Sources

ADAMS COUNTY: Adams County has no organized pro bono programs. The county is served by Legal Services of Maumee Valley, which administers the Volunteer Lawyer Program, covering a seven-county area. About 250 lawyers are on the panel. No information was obtained on the percentage of Adams County lawyers who participate in the Volunteer Lawyer Program, but such information will be included in the 2000 Report and Plan. The Court of Appeals reports twenty-seven practicing attorneys in Adams County.

DEKALB COUNTY: Dekalb County has no organized pro bono programs. The county is served by Legal Services of Maumee Valley, which administers the Volunteer Lawyer Program, covering a seven-county area. Three percent of the caseload consists of dissolutions. About one-half of the cases are handled pro se. Approximately 25-35 cases each year require pro bono representation. The Court of Appeals reports thirty-seven practicing attorneys in Dekalb County.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY: Huntington County has no organized pro bono programs. Legal Services of Maumee Valley administers the Volunteer Lawyer Program, which includes Huntington County. The vast majority of cases are dissolutions, creating a backlog. The President of the Bar Association reports fifteen telephone calls per year for indigent services. The Court of Appeals reports thirty-three practicing attorneys in Huntington County,

LAGRANGE COUNTY: LaGrange County has no organized pro bono programs. Legal Services Organization of Northern Indiana - South Bend office covers this county. The Court of Appeals reports eighteen practicing attorneys in LaGrange County.

NOBLE COUNTY: Noble County has no organized pro bono programs. Legal Services Organization of Northern Indiana - South Bend office covers this county. Legal Services of Maumee Valley Volunteer Lawyer Program also is involved. The Court of Appeals reports twenty-eight practicing attorneys in Noble County.

STEUBEN COUNTY: Steuben County has no organized pro bono programs. Legal Services of Maumee Valley administers the Volunteer Lawyer Program which includes Steuben County. The Court of Appeals reports thirty practicing attorneys in Steuben County.

WELLS COUNTY: Wells County has no organized pro bono programs. Legal Services of Maumee Valley administers the Volunteer Lawyer Program which includes Wells County. The Court estimates approximately 10% of the dissolution cases would require pro bono representation. There is an organization which assists in a program for divorced parents, parenting classes, reunification of families and home visits. It is not clear yet what this organization, Family Centered

Services, provides in the way of pro bono assistance. This information will be provided in the 2000 Annual Report and Plan if relevant. The Court of Appeals reports twenty-four practicing lawyers in Wells County.

WHITELEY COUNTY: Whitely County has no organized pro bono programs. Legal Services of Maumee Valley provides pro bono representation. The Court of Appeals reports twenty-four practicing lawyers in Whitely County.

ALLEN COUNTY: Allen County has organized pro bono programs. The Court of Appeals reports seven hundred eighty-four practicing attorneys in Allen County. Legal Services of Maumee Valley administers the Volunteer Lawyer Program. The Allen County Bar Association sponsors “Legal Line,” staffed by volunteer lawyers offering free legal advice by telephone. The Bar does have a lawyer referral service, but it is for fee-paying clients. All pro bono cases are handled by Legal Services of Maumee Valley, including the Volunteer Lawyer Program.

Also located in Allen County is the Public Guardianship Program (funded by The Lutheran Foundation) offered through the Mental Health Association of Allen County. Funding for the program’s Coordinator is in jeopardy. The Coordinator accepts referrals of endangered adults in need of a guardian from local hospitals, home health agencies, and local physicians. The Coordinator investigates the

referrals, obtains the services of two pro bono attorneys for each guardianship, prepares the paperwork necessary for a guardian to be appointed, and performs all tasks incidental to the guardianship. A description of the Coordinator's duties and cases processed and referral taken are attached. Ruth Ann Sprunger, Director of Mental Health has already contacted the District Three Committee to inquire about participation on the committee and to request support for the Coordinator.

EXISTING SERVICE/PROGRAM

Legal Line

Sponsoring Agency:

Allen County Bar Association
1325 Anthony Wayne Building
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802
(219)423-2358

Contact person: Mark Warsco Title: President

Service/Program Information

Target Population:	General
Eligibility Requirements:	None
Estimate number served:	500
Service Area:	Allen County and surrounding counties
Type of program:	Free legal advice by telephone.
Estimate of expense:	Unknown
Funding Source:	Allen County Bar Association
Service description:	Volunteer lawyers staff telephone lines answering callers questions about various legal issues.

How does this organization participate in the coordination of services and what role do they play in the development of the plan?

The Allen County Bar Association, together with Legal Services of Maumee Valley are the main providers of pro bono services in District Three. The President of the Bar Association is a committee member, dedicated to the development of the plan for pro bono services in District Three.

EXISTING SERVICE/PROGRAM

Volunteer Lawyer Program

Sponsoring Agency:

Legal Services of Maumee Valley
203 W. Wayne St. Suite 410
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802
(219)422-8070
(800)552-4884
FAX(219)422-7915
lsmv@fwi.com

Contact person: Judith Whitelock

Title: Director, Volunteer Lawyers
Program

Service/Program Information:

Target Population: Clients living in Adams, Allen, Dekalb,
Huntington, Steuben, Wells, Whitley,
LaGrange, and Noble Counties.

Eligibility requirements: Clients are expected to pay fees and costs of
a case, however no charge is made for
attorneys fees. If the client is unable to pay
filing fees, waiver motions are filed.

Estimate numbers served: 263 cases closed in 1998.

Funding source: Legal Services of Maumee Valley

Service Description: Lawyers volunteer to be on a panel, donating
their time to handle cases involving family
issues, consumer, housing, miscellaneous,
and income maintenance (entitlement).
Approximately 250 lawyers volunteer.

How does this organization participate in the coordination of services and what role
do they play in the development of the plan?

The Director of the Volunteer Lawyer Program is a member of the
committee. She is dedicated to the pro bono effort, and currently is the coordinator
for pro bono services in District Three. The Volunteer Lawyers Program will be
heavily involved in the development of the plan.

EXISTING SERVICE/PROGRAM

Domestic Violence Project, Older Adults Project, Housing

Sponsoring Agency:

Legal Services of Maumee Valley

203 W. Wayne St., Suite 410
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802
(219)422-8070
(800)552-4884
FAX(219)422-7915
lsmv@fwi.com

Contact Person: Ann Schlagenhauf, Steve Morgan (Intake Committee Contact)

Service/Program Information:

Target Population: Clients living in Adams, Allen, Dekalb,
Huntington, Steuben, Wells, Whitley
Counties. For Older Adult Project:

LaGrange and Noble Counties.

Eligibility Requirements: 200% of poverty guidelines for
Domestic Violence Project. For Older Adult
Project, age 60+, no income guidelines. For
Housing Project, subsidized housing and
landlord/tenant evictions.

Estimate number served: Unknown at this time.

Type of service: Governmental benefits, loss of shelter,
domestic, education, consumer/finance,
miscellaneous (guardianships, Medicaid
estate planning).

Estimate expense: \$50,216 1998 budget expenses.

Funding sources: LSO

Service description: Provide free legal assistance to a seven-
county area.

How does this organization participate in the coordination of services and what role do they play in the development of the plan?

Legal Services of Maumee Valley provides free legal help to indigent clients. They are intricately involved in the pro bono effort, and are large contributors to the plan being developed by District Three.